

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: LOCAL CAMPAIGN ON MONARCHY ISSUE

REF: (A) THESSALONIKI 758, (B) ATHENS 8390

1. THESSALONIKI PAPERS OF NOVEMBER 27 FRONTPAGE
TELEVISION ADDRESS BY KING CONSTANTINE PREVIOUS DAY
WITH DIFFERING EMPHASES IN HEADLINES. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS"
HEADLINE CARRIES SYMPATHETIC QUOTE "I WILL SUBMIT TO
PEOPLE" WHILE "MAKEDONIA" PRINTS FACTUAL TITLE ON TV
ADDRESS. NO LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS YET APPEARED
ON SPEECH.

2. CONSTANTINE'S SPEECH COINCIDES WITH INCREASING
ACTIVITY HERE BY BOTH PRO AND ANTI-MONARCHY GROUPS.
MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING KING'S RETURN, WHICH
HAVE OPENED LOCAL OFFICES, ARE PAN HELLENIC MOVEMENT
FOR CROWN DEMOCRACY (REF A) AND ROYAL NATIONAL FRONT
FOR NORTHERN GREECE. SO FAR, ACTIVITY OF THESE GROUPS
HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LIMITED WITH FEW VISITORS NOTED
AT UNIMPRESSIVE LOCAL OFFICES. (COINCIDENTALLY,
NUMBER OF VISITORS TO PAN HELLENIC MOVEMENT OFFICES
NOTED BY CONGEN HAVE BEEN ORTHODOX PRIESTS.) ROYAL
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NATIONAL FRONT DISTRIBUTING LIMITED NUMBER OF BROCHURES

SHOWING KING IN MILITARY UNIFORM AND ON HORSEBACK. FEW ROYALIST RECORDINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN DISTRIBUTED HERE (REF B).

3. CONTRARY TO LOCAL RUMORS OF SUBSTANTIAL OUTSIDE FINANCING FOR ROYALIST CAMPAIGN, ACTIVITIES HERE DO NOT SO FAR INDICATE HEAVY SPENDING. PAN HELLENIC MOVEMENT, HOWEVER, ALSO OPENING OFFICES IN THESSALONIKI SUBURBS AND OUTLYING DISTRICTS OF NORTHERN GREECE. BOTH GROUPS, IN ORDER TO LEGALLY QUALIFY AS CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATIONS, CLAIM TO HAVE FOUNDING COMMITTEES OF 100 MEMBERS. MEMBERSHIPS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED, BUT ARE RUMORED TO INCLUDE NUMBER OF FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS. ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENTS, LOCAL PRO-MONARCHY CAMPAIGN WILL INTENSIFY DECEMBER 1 FOR FINAL WEEK.

4. LOCAL ANTI-MONARCHY CAMPAIGN SPEARHEADED BY COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, HEADED BY PRESIDENT OF THESSALONIKI BAR ASSOCIATION GEORGE VIDALIS. COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDES NUMBER OF PROMINENT LOCAL PROFESSORS, JUDGES, AND BUSINESSMEN, ISSUED PROCLAMATION NOVEMBER 25, WHICH PUBLISHED IN ALL LOCAL PAPERS, CITING PAST "ERRORS" OF MONARCHY. LOCAL LAW PROFESSORS IOANNIS DELIYANNIS AND ARISTOVOULOS MANESSIS ALSO REPRESENTED ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN. IN ADDITION TO THESE GROUPS THESSALONIKI CU, PASOK, AND KKE-EXTERNAL COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED TO MOUNT ANTI-ROYALIST CAMPAIGN. CU EPUTY FROM ATHENS GETRGE MANGAKIS WILL ADDRESS ANTI-ROYALIST GATHERING IN THESSALONIKI DECEMBER 1.

5. FEW LOCAL OBSERVERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN CONSIDER VICTORY FOR KING LIKELY IN DECEMBER 8 REFERENDUO, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLEPERCENTAGES CITED FOR ROYALIST FRONT VARY FROM 20 PERCENT UPWARDS. LOCAL REACTION TO NOVEMBER 26 SPEECH BY CONSTANTINE GENERALLY POSITIVE WITH WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION HERE THAT HE APPEARS MORE "MATURE" AS RESULT OF EXILE. CONTENT OF SPEECH AND PERSONAL APPEAL AT CONCLUSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO CONSIDERED MODEST AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY EFFECTIVE. LOCAL SUPPORTERS OF KING'S RETURN CLAIM THAT CAMPAIGN GAINING MOMENTUM, BUT DOUBT THAT REMAINING 10 DAYS BEFORE VOTE WILL BE SUFFICIENT. JACKSON

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